

Dudley Ag Commission Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2019

Call to Order: Victor Kallgren Chairman

Pledge of Allegiance

Acceptance of September 5th meeting minutes

Follow-up on September guest John La Fleche, Superintendent of Bay Path School, who spoke on getting agricultural courses back in the classroom:

The September minutes summarizing the superintendent's talk were read by Secretary Debra Easterbrook for the benefit of anyone who missed the talk which was very encouraging.

Follow-up on September guests Jennifer Cournoyer-Chairman of the Dudley Board of Health and Tom Purcell, Dudley Health Inspector and Tom Purcell:

For the Dudley farmers setting up for the Dudley Farm Dayz, a temporary food permit is needed. The Board of Health has agreed to waive the fee for this year.

Our concern about the Board of Health's new regulations for farm animals on less than five acres was brought up. John Briar, formerly of the Planning Board, reminded us of our purpose:

Advisory Commission in the Town of Dudley to serve as a forum for matters of interest to farmers in Dudley, and to advise the Board on how the Town can best support farming in Dudley. The Commission's ARTICLE 44 AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSIONa). Purpose: To establish the Agricultural five (5) members shall include three (3) Dudley residents who are engaged in farming and two (2) citizens at-large interested in promoting farming. Up to five (5) alternate members may also be appointed, at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen. Regular members shall have three year, staggered terms, and alternative members shall have one year terms.

b). Duties and Responsibilities: The Commission's duties shall include, but are not limited to: serving as facilitators for encouraging the pursuits of agriculture in Dudley; promoting agricultural-based economic opportunities in Town; acting as mediators, advocates, educators, and/or negotiators on farming issues; working for preservation of prime agricultural lands; advising the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Historical Commission, Board of Assessors, and the Open Space committee, or any other appropriate Town Boards, on issues involving agriculture; and pursuing all initiatives appropriate to creating a sustainable agricultural community. When designated by the Board of Selectmen this Advisory Commission will be the lead representative for the Town of Dudley and its interactions and communications with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. However, the Advisory Commission shall not have the authority to bind the Town in any regard, unless otherwise authorized by the Board of Selectmen, by by-law, or by town meeting vote. c). Appointment & Composition of the Commission: The Commission shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen

Goals and Logo: Linda is in the process of working on this.

Right to Farm signs: Paul Wieloch spoke with shop owner and is waiting for quote.

Dudley Farm Dayz: We have had several planning meetings and are all set for a hay ride, hay maize of 120 bales set up the night before the event, pumpkin carving, pumpkin decorating, and a fairy garden workshop for kids. This will be set up behind the grange. We will also have the common on the south side of the monument for Dudley farm vendors to set up. Liability insurance is needed. A copy should be sent to the board of health.

Public Input: John Briare, former planning board member spoke. He would like to help Dudley farmers and has some great ideas. He would set up a website called dudleyfarmers.com, to help facilitate communications between farmers and potential customers. He suggests ultimately giving this to the Grange. His suggestions for the site include:

Making revenue by selling adds, but no cost to Dudley farmers.

Dudley farm listings with products

Farm venues for rent

Farmland for sale

Consulting for a fee

John will send an email to everyone on the original distribution list about this new site.

Meeting was adjourned.